

Senate Bill 373

Testimony of Rony Foumia, RPH

**Vice President CET Pharmacy Group – LTC/Compliance and Specialty
Pharmacy**

October 15, 2013

Thank you Madam Chairwoman and members of this Health Policy Committee for hearing my testimony on Senate bill 373. My name is Rony Foumia, VP of Long Term Care/Specialty Pharmacy and Compliance. I am representing CET Pharmacy Group located in Belleville, Michigan. I have been a licensed pharmacist in Michigan since 1999 and have managed up to 35 stores as a pharmacy supervisor and district manager and I consider myself an expert in the subject matter.

CET Pharmacy Group has been committed to the progression and growth of pharmacy practices through technology and innovation since our establishment in 2004. An integral part of our pharmacy model is our innovative technology and extensive patient education, which are focused on increased medication compliance and overall positive health outcomes of our patients.

While CET Pharmacy supports enactment of SB 373, we are not advocating for the practice of Pharmacy without a pharmacist on duty.

Enactment of Senate bill 373 will:

1. Improve patient health/compliance through the use of technology and will open the door to further technological advancements that are long overdue in the profession of pharmacy in Michigan.
2. Help improve the profession of pharmacy as a whole as the community practice will shift to a more clinical model by freeing up pharmacists to focus more on patient health outcomes. In today's community setting,

the pharmacist is being asked to handle so many duties (drive thru windows, pick up windows, consultation windows, phones, verify prescriptions, administering flu shots etc.) that a huge gap in overall patient care has been created that greatly impacts the profession of pharmacy.

3. Will actually help decrease health care costs.

The world of pharmacy is dynamic and ever changing, now more than ever. Pharmacists are dedicated professionals that want to help patients through educating them on the proper use of their medications. In today's work environment, most pharmacists feel overwhelmed and their skills underutilized.

CET Pharmacy Group supports Senate Bill 373 to improve the delivery of care through technology modernization and other efficiencies. Through the utilization of new technologies, pharmacists will efficiently and effectively be able to broaden their ability to make a positive impact on our patients' health outcomes. In addition, we will be able to reach patients who live in more rural areas and are unable to get the proper care they need to stay healthy.

By recognizing that our current health care system is archaic and inefficient, and by allowing pharmacists to become innovative through the approval of Senate Bill 373, we will be able to consider new and improved deliverance of pharmacy care and create solutions to the current trouble the health care system is facing.

The profession of Pharmacy has become complacent and we must adapt and change and focus on technology to help improve patient health. Millions of patients are not compliant with their medications and are being admitted and re-admitted to the hospital as a result, not to mention driving up health care costs drastically.

Enacting Senate bill 373, will create an opportunity to investigate new approaches and will be a first step towards addressing these critical problems

and gaps within the current pharmacy model in Michigan. This will also help us be a leader nationally by focusing on technological advancements to improve patient care and decreasing health care costs through the advancements of technology. We will be taking the first step towards a healthier America.

I would like to present to you examples of obstacles CET Pharmacy Group faces and hope to begin to overcome with the enactment of Senate bill 373.

At our long-term care facility, we strive to provide the greatest clinical care to the patients we serve in our adult foster care communities. These are, in most cases, elderly patients or patients that are mentally challenged, who need help with remembering to take their medications. Through our advanced packaging solutions we have created a system to truly help these patients. Enacting Senate bill 373, we will be able to more effectively reach these patients through the utilization of this new technology.

We also believe enactment of Senate bill 373 will open the door to more discussions about the challenges we face in these specialized areas. There are certain rules and regulations currently in place such as Board of Pharmacy Administrative Rule 9 (C), which governs Customized Patient Medication Packages, that need further updating and revisiting.

We currently service nearly 90 AFC homes throughout the state of Michigan and many of these homes have mentally ill patients on specialized dosage regimens. As a pharmacist, I TRULY believe mental illness and treatment is a growing concern and the lack of proper care is leaving these patients in vulnerable places. Enactment of Senate bill 373, will open the door to technology and new advancements to help better care for these individuals. This will also help improve the care for many other disease states that are greatly impacting patient health.

On behalf of CET Pharmacy Group, I extend my warmest thanks to you Madam Chairman and the committee for hearing my testimony and hope that you will

consider the necessity for pharmacists to improve the delivery of care through technology and other efficiencies through the approval of Senate Bill 373.

Rony Foumia, RPH

Vice President CET Pharmacy Group – LTC/Compliance & Specialty Pharmacy

RFoumia@CETRXGroup.com

734-386-9291